

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With California Democratic Gubernatorial Nominee Kathleen Brown

June 23, 1994

The President. Let me say first it's a pleasure for me to have Kathleen Brown here in the White House, to have an opportunity to talk about the many issues and challenges facing California, what we can do to work on them together. I want to congratulate her on her win in the primary, and I look forward to working with her.

California Gubernatorial Campaign

Q. Are you planning to campaign for Ms. Brown?

The President. If she asks me to, I will. That's up to her.

Ms. Brown. I'm asking. I'm asking. [Laughter] Come ride our bus.

The President. I'm in California a lot, you know, and I expect to be back a lot. And I'm encouraged by the signs that our economic program is beginning to take hold in California. I'm encouraged by the very rapid work that was done to get the investments into southern California after the quake. I'm encouraged by a lot of the work that's being done in defense

conversion in California. And I'm encouraged by the increasing exports coming out of California and going into the rest of the world. But there's still an awful lot to be done, so I expect to be there quite a lot.

World Cup Soccer

Q. What about the World Cup?

The President. I'm elated, aren't you? That's right, the United States won in California. It's great. I'm so excited about it. I went to the opening game in Chicago, you know, between Germany and Bolivia. And my daughter got me interested in soccer years ago, but I'm about to get totally hooked.

I like this American team. You know, it reminds me of my campaign: They're kind of the underdogs, and they're coming on, and I'm really very hopeful for them now.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Message to the Senate on the Impact of the Chemical Weapons Convention on the Use of Riot Control Agents

June 23, 1994

To the Senate of the United States:

Upon transmitting the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to the Senate November 23, 1993, I indicated that the Administration was reviewing the impact of the Convention on Executive Order No. 11850, of April 8, 1975, which specifies current U.S. policy regarding the use of riot control agents (RCAs) in war, and would submit the results of that review separately to the Senate. The purpose of this letter is to inform the Senate of the outcome of that review.

Article I(5) of the CWC prohibits Parties from using RCAs as a "method of warfare." That phrase is not defined in the CWC. The United States interprets this provision to mean that:

- The CWC applies only to the use of RCAs in international or internal armed conflict. Other peacetime uses of RCAs, such as normal peacekeeping operations, law enforcement operations, humanitarian and disaster relief operations, counter-terrorist and hostage rescue operations, and noncombatant rescue operations conducted outside such conflicts are unaffected by the Convention.
- The CWC does not apply to all uses of RCAs in time of armed conflict. Use of RCAs solely against noncombatants for law enforcement, riot control, or other noncombat purposes would not be considered as a "method of warfare" and there-

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fore would not be prohibited. Accordingly, the CWC does not prohibit the use of RCAs in riot control situations in areas under direct U.S. military control, including against rioting prisoners of war, and to protect convoys from civil disturbances, terrorists, and paramilitary organizations in rear areas outside the zone of immediate combat.

—The CWC does prohibit the use of RCAs solely against combatants. In addition, according to the current international understanding, the CWC's prohibition on the use of RCAs as a "method of warfare" also precludes the use of RCAs even for humanitarian purposes in situations where combatants and noncombatants are intermingled, such as the rescue of downed air crews, passengers, and escaping prisoners and situ-

ations where civilians are being used to mask or screen attacks. However, were the international understanding of this issue to change, the United States would not consider itself bound by this position.

Upon receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, a new Executive order outlining U.S. policy on the use of RCAs under the Convention will be issued. I will also direct the Office of the Secretary of Defense to accelerate efforts to field non-chemical, non-lethal alternatives to RCAs for use in situations where combatants and noncombatants are intermingled.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
June 23, 1994.

Statement on Congressional Action on Health Care Reform

June 23, 1994

Under the leadership of Chairman Ford, the decisive action by the members of the House Education and Labor Committee has brought us one step closer to achieving our goal of universal coverage: guaranteed private insurance for every American that can never be taken away.

Chairman Ford has had a long, distinguished career in Congress, and his guidance throughout the health care reform process and his commitment to universal coverage will help us ensure that all Americans have the health security they want and deserve.

With today's action, for the first time ever, a committee in each House of Congress has reported a bill that guarantees universal coverage. They have broken the chokehold of special interests and, by choosing to cover everyone, have stood up instead for millions of hard working middle class Americans.

As we continue to move forward, and as momentum for reform builds, this committee action sends a clear signal to the American people that Congress is well on its way to making health care history this year.

Statement on Assistance to California

June 23, 1994

As earthquake recovery efforts have continued, the President's contingency fund has enabled our administration to respond to unforeseen problems. Most of the funds I am releasing today will help small business people in southern California who have had difficulty obtaining assistance until now.

NOTE: This statement was included in a statement by the Press Secretary announcing additional assistance to California.